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C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 000397

STATE FOR EAP/ANP, ISN/RA AND IO/T

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/26/2023

TAGS: [MNUC](#) [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [IAEA](#) [PARM](#) [NZ](#)

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND SUPPORTS STRONG STATEMENTS ON IRAN,
SYRIA AT BOG MEETING

REF: STATE 123074

Classified By: Pol/Econ Counselor Margaret B. McKean; Reason 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) On November 25, Pol/Econ Counselor met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade International Security and Disarmament Division Chief Joan Mosley and Deputy Director Jillian Dempster to discuss the recent IAEA reports on Iran and Syria, ongoing TACC discussions and next steps in Vienna. Mosley assured the USG that the GNZ finds both reports disturbing, and said that New Zealand agrees with and shares USG concerns. New Zealand plans to deliver strong statements on both countries at the upcoming Board of Governors meeting.

¶2. (C) Regarding Syria and the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC), New Zealand does not contribute to the TACC and therefore does not anticipate playing a high profile role in those discussions. New Zealand desires a "satisfactory" outcome on Syria (i.e., an outcome that is acceptable to the majority of Board members). Mosley indicated that feedback from Vienna through MFAT channels indicates that the TACC discussions are largely at an impasse and little consensus is foreseen. MFAT believes that the issue will go to the Board of Governors. Mosley noted that New Zealand, having just elected a new government, does not yet have clear policy guidance from new Foreign Minister Murray McCully, Minister for Disarmament Georgina Te Heuheu and other relevant ministries. She acknowledged that New Zealand will be constrained in its actions until the new

government has read in and had a chance to discuss the policy papers forwarded to the new ministers. Mosley said that the New Zealand mission in Vienna and MFAT had developed language for use in the upcoming statements at the BOG without appropriate clearance from the new government given that there is still a transition taking place.

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